

Why does my child have to use atropine eye drops?

Your child has been given atropine eye drops because their sight (vision) is poorer in one eye. This is called **amblyopia** and there can be a number of causes. The orthoptist will have explained the cause of your child's amblyopia but normally this happens when the sight does not develop fully in one eye due to having a squint or needing glasses. The pathway connecting the **amblyopic** (weaker) eye to the brain is not fully developed which stops the eye seeing well.

How do the drops work?

The drops are put into the eye with **better vision**. The drops enlarge the pupil and stop the eye from focusing, especially for near. This encourages the brain to use the the amblyopic (weaker) eye. In time, this should improve the vision of the weaker eye.

When and how do I put the drops in my child's eye?

One drop of atropine is placed in **the better seeing eye twice per week**. In some cases, this could even be done when your child is sleeping soundly.

Wash your hands before and after use. Gently pull the lower lid down and put one drop into the space between the lid and the eye.

Store the drops out of reach from children.

Are there any side effects from using the eye drops?

It is common for children to find sunlight uncomfortable and to want to wear sunglasses or sunhat. Less common side effects include a change in heart rate, flushing of the skin, light-headedness, a dry mouth, vomiting or nightmares. If you notice any of these symptoms stop using the eye drops and contact the eye clinic or your GP.

There is also a risk with using atropine eye drops that the vision in the good eye may be affected during treatment. This risk has been reported as a low risk although this can be minimized by having regular appointments with your orthoptist. Should this happen the effect is almost always reversible with treatment.

Does my child need to wear their glasses when using the eye drops?

Yes, if your child has glasses they should continue to wear them full time.

Will using this treatment mean that my child will no longer need their glasses?

No, even if the vision improves this will be a sign that the pathway between the weak eye and the brain is getting stronger. It will not change how long or short sighted the eye is.

How often should I have appointments?

You should be seen by the Orthoptist every 6 weeks to review the treatment plan. However, if this is not the case, **do not exceed** 6 weeks of instilling the drops

What else can we try to improve the vision?

The atropine eye drops work by blurring the eyesight in the good eye especially for near. It's helpful whilst on the treatment to encourage near tasks such as looking at books, colouring, playing with ipad/tablet etc.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the treatment?

The good eye may be dilated for up to two weeks after Atropine stopped.

You can contact the orthoptic clinic on 01463706331 ext 6331.

Contact Us:

Telephone: 01463706331

Address:

National Treatment Centre Highland,
Inverness Campus,
Inverness,
IV2 5NA

At times the telephone may be on answer phone. Please leave a message including your name, your child's name and date of birth and a contact telephone number. One of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

PLEASE NOTIFY ANY HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER THAT YOU ARE USING ATRPOINE EYE DROPS IF YOU ATTEND ANY OTHER CLINIC OR A&E

The eye drop should be put in to the

Right Eye

Left Eye



Parents/Carers Guide to Atropine Penalisation

